(c) Train Actuated Warning Device (TAWD) to warn the road users at unmanned level crossings had been tried but the trials have not proved successful due to theft and vandalism of the equipment.

(d) Steps taken to prevent accidents at unmanned level crossings include provision of basic infrastructure at unmanned level crossings, namely, levelled road surface at the crossings, proper road signs to warn road users, speed breakers/rumble strips on the approach road and whistle boards for the train drivers to whistle while approaching the level crossings. Since most of the unmanned level crossing accidents are caused due to the negligence of road users, public awareness programme and publicity campaigns through various electronic and print media are undertaken regularly. Joint ambush checks with the involvement of civil authorities are also conducted to check the erring road users. Manning of unmanned level crossings is also done upon their qualifying the laid down criteria for manning.

Shortage of staff

2605. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacant posts in Railways, category-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware that the railway services are getting affected due to shortage of staff; and

(c) if so, the steps Government contemplates to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The number of vacant posts in Zonal Railways as on 31.3.09, category-wise is 1704 in (A&B) category and 168109 in (C&D) category.

(b) and (c) In a large organization like the Railways, there will be certain vacancies at any point of time. However, there is no compromise made in the railway services including the operation and safety of trains. As regards filling of the vacant posts, the same is a continuous process and the policy of railway administration is to fill up all available vacant posts promptly as per laid down procedure.

Annual requirement of coaches

2606. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated annual requirement of coaches in Railways in the next three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of coach manufacturing units under Railways and outside Railways;

(c) the rated capacity of all coach manufacturing units, unit-wise;

(d) the envisaged annual production capacity of coach making units in Rai Bareli, Daukuni, Kanchrapara, Singur, Noapara and Majerhat; and